

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W

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P 140830Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7528

NASA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NASA MA US

SUBJECT: NASA CLOSURE: MALAGASY EMPLOYEE SALARY PAYMENTS
DISCUSSED WITH EMPLOYEES AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NASA PASS TO C. EDMONSON, BFEC HQ, COLUMBIA, MD.

REF: A. STATE 179984; B. TANANARIVE 1936

SUMMARY: EIGHT DELEGATES REPRESENTING MALAGASY EMPLOYEES
CALLED ON CHARGE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO DISCUSS PAY
QUESTIONS. DELEGATES ALSO MAKING ROUND OF GOMR OFFICIALS
WHICH LED TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUEST TO SPEAK
TO CHARGE ON PAY ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH 8 DELEGATES REPRESENTING
MALAGASY EMPLOYEES FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT NASA TRACKING
STATION AUGUST 8. MEETING OPENED WITH PRESENTATION OF
LETTER, EXPRESSING DELEGATES CONCERN WITH FINAL SALARY
PAYMENT, VACATION PAY AND TERMINATION PAY. IN ADDITION TO
FINAL, OVERTIME AND NIGHT PAY PAYMENTS, THEY REQUESTED
PAYMENT OF VACATION PAY BE MADE AT SAME TIME. THEY FELT
THIS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY ON PART OF BENDIX TO SHOW
GOOD FAITH TO THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO WOULD NOT RECEIVE OVER-
TIME OR NIGHT PAY. AFTER EXPLAINING THAT NORMAL TIME
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FRAME FOR PAYROLLING NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS INSTANCE,

EMBASSY OFFICERS INFORMED THEM THAT FINAL OVERTIME AND NIGHT PAY PAYMENTS UP TO 11 JULY WERE BEING PROCESSED AND WOULD BE PAID IN DUE COURSE. EMBASSY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON PAYING VACATION PAY AT SAME TIME, BUT NOTED THAT DOING SO WOULD DELAY OTHER PAYMENT. DELEGATES SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT PREFERRED ALL EMPLOYEES RECEIVE SOME PAYMENT AT SAME TIME. DELEGATES WERE INFORMED THAT EMBASSY WOULD ADDRESS QUESTION TO BENDIX.

2. ON QUESTION OF TERMINATION PAY EMBASSY MADE NO COMMITMENT. DELEGATES SUGGESTED THAT THEY WERE ENTITLED TO SIX MONTHS SEVERANCE PAY. EMBASSY OFFICERS SAID SEVERANCE PAY QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED BY NASA/BENDIX TO DETERMINE ENTITLEMENTS IN LIGHT OF MANNER IN WHICH STATION CLOSED. EMBASSY NOTED THAT NO WORK HAD BEGUN ON TERMINATION PAY BECAUSE SOME EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE RETAINED TO HELP IN STATION CLOSING. DELEGATES EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR MEETING AND DEPARTED. MEETING LASTED ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

3. CHARGE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER REMI TIANDRAZA AUGUST 14 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. MINISTER SAID HE HAD MEETING LATER IN DAY WITH EMPLOYEES OF STATION AND ASKED WHAT STATUS OF SALARY PAYMENTS WAS. CHARGE EXPLAINED EMBASSY MEETING WITH DELEGATES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WHICH SATISFIED MINISTER.

4. CHARGE THEN ASKED MINISTER IF HE HAD REVIEWED EMBASSY NOTE OF AUGUST 7 ON NASA STATION. MINISTER LOOKED BLANK SO CHARGE ADDED THAT NOTE INCLUDED EQUIPMENT LIST. CHARGE SAID THAT HE HOPED GOMR WOULD VERY SERIOUSLY CONSIDER US NOTE WHICH REFLECTS US DESIRE TO FIND SOLUTION TO REMAINING NASA CLOSURE PROBLEMS. MINISTER, HALF-INTERRUPTING SAID, "YES, I NOW REMEMBER NOTE WITH LIST OF TRUCKS, BUILDINGS, AND SO FORTH," BUT MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS PAYING VACATION PAY AT THIS TIME. VACATION PAY CAN BE PROCESSED IN LUMP SUM WITH FINAL SALARY OR AS A SEPARATE ITEM AT IBM. THIS PAY COMPUTED AS A SEPARATE ITEM AND WAS SUBMITTED ALONG WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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DATA REQUESTED PER REFTTEL A TO LEE CARTER AT BFEC HEAD-QUARTERS.
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